

The illustration shows a young boy with dark skin, wearing orange shorts and blue goggles, standing on a wooden diving board. He is looking down at the water. In the background, there are green bushes and a city skyline with various buildings. A wooden ladder is on the left side of the diving board.

JABARI JUMPS

Gaia Cornwall

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To Larkin, who is already a great jumper,
and to her big brother, Rowan,
who uses his "bravery" every day

JABARI JUMPS



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Always check the rules and regulations at your pool before swimming.
Goggles, flotation devices, and other things pictured in this book are sometimes prohibited.

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"I'm jumping off the diving board today," Jabari told his dad.
"Really?" said his dad.

The diving board was high and maybe a little scary,
but Jabari had finished his swimming lessons and
passed his swim test, and now he was ready to jump.

"I'm a great jumper," said Jabari, "so I'm not scared at all."





Jabari watched the other kids climb the long ladder. They walked all the way out to the end of the board, as big as tiny bugs. Then they stood on the edge. They spread their arms and bent their knees. And sprang up! up! up! And then they dove down, down, down.

Splash!

"Looks easy," Jabari said.

But when his dad squeezed his hand, Jabari squeezed back.



Jabari stood at the bottom of the ladder.
He looked up.



"You can go before me if you want," he told the kid behind him.



"I need to think about what kind of special jump I'm going to do."



Jabari thought and thought.

Jabari started to climb. Up and up.
This ladder is very tall, he thought.
"Are you okay?" called his dad.
"I'm just a little tired," said Jabari.
"Maybe you should climb down and
take a tiny rest," said his dad.
A tiny rest sounded like a good idea.



When he got to the bottom, Jabari remembered something.
“I forgot to do my stretches!” he said to his dad.



“Stretching is very important,” said his dad.



“I think tomorrow might be a better day
for jumping,” Jabari said.
They looked up at the diving board
together.



"It's okay to feel a little scared," said his dad. "Sometimes, if I feel a little scared, I take a deep breath and tell myself I am ready. And you know what? Sometimes it stops feeling scary and feels a little like a surprise."

Jabari loved surprises.

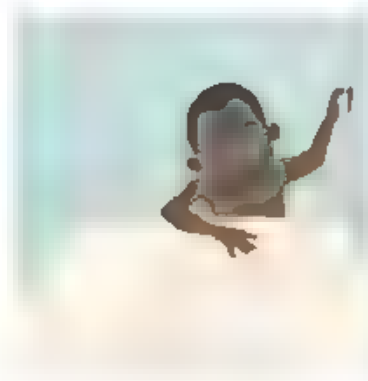
Jabari took a deep breath and felt it fill his body from the ends of his hair right down to the tips of his toes.



Jabari looked up.
He began to climb.



Up and up.
And up and up.

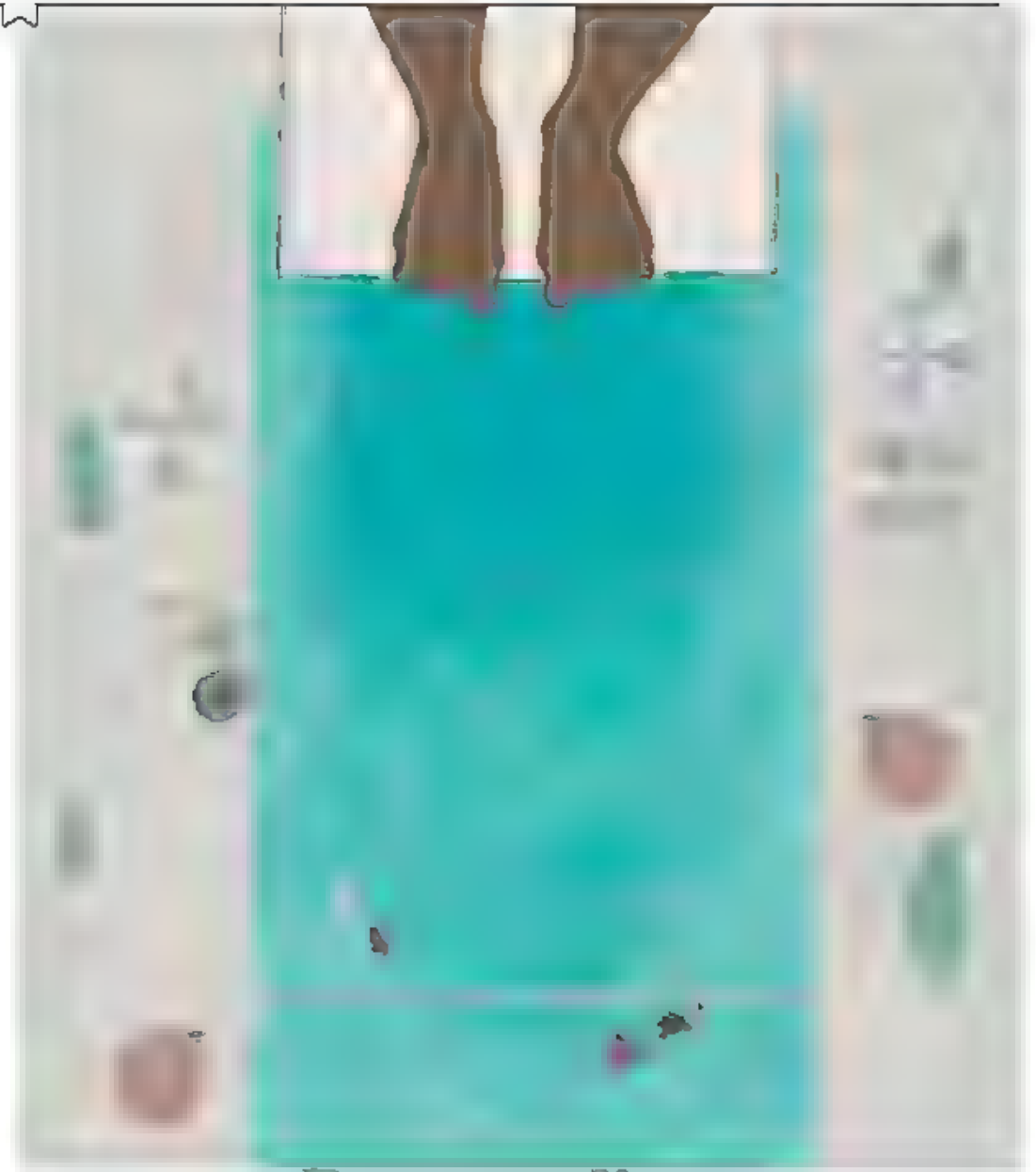


Until he got to the top.
Jabari stood up straight.



He walked all the way
to the end of the board.

His toes curled around the rough edge.



Jabari looked out, as far as he could see
He felt like he was ready
"I love surprises," he whispered.





He took a deep breath and spread
his arms and bent his knees.

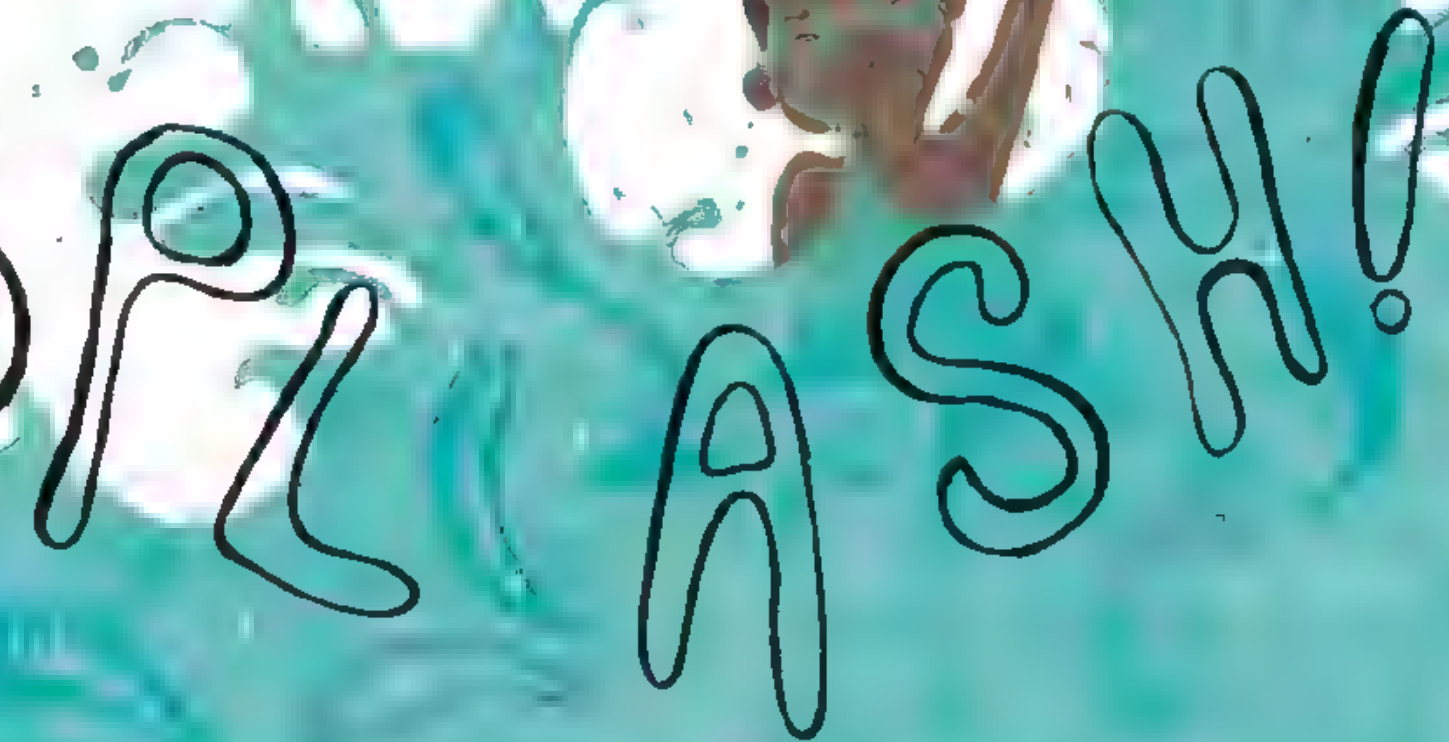
Then he sprang up!

Up off the board!

Flying!

Jabari hit the water with a

SPLASH!

A vibrant illustration of a young boy with dark skin and short hair, wearing a red shirt, splashing in bright blue water. He has his right arm raised, and a large splash of water is behind him. The word 'SPLASH!' is written in large, black, outlined letters across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the water and the boy.



And then back up!





"Jabari! You did it!" said his dad.

"I did it!" said Jabari. "I'm a great jumper!
And you know what?"

"What?" said his dad.

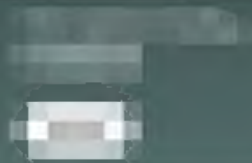


"Surprise double backflip is next!"



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Working up the courage to take a big, important leap is hard, but Jabari is almost absolutely ready to make a giant splash.

Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so he's not scared at all. "Looks easy," says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back. He needs to figure out what kind of special jump to do anyway, and he should probably do some stretches before climbing up onto the diving board. In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.